

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



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93rd Washington State Patrol Basic Training Class Graduates

At a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda this afternoon, 43 Troopers were sworn in by Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, and presented their commission cards by Governor Christine Gregoire and WSP Chief John R. Batiste, who welcomed them into an organization known and trusted by the citizens of Washington State.

After completing over 1000 hours of training, these men and women will join Washington's premier law enforcement organization. The WSP Academy only produces approximately 3 cadet classes each biennium, which accounts for about 120 new troopers. Historically, only about 4 to 6 percent of the total numbers of applicants make the grade to become WSP Troopers.

"The 43 cadets graduating today endured a rigorous application process, extensive background investigation, and received the best training unmatched anywhere else in the nation," said Chief John Batiste. "Today, they will join the ranks of Washington's finest, as troopers of the Washington State Patrol."

A tradition that started a little over 85 years ago on June 21, 1921, when six brave men kick-started their Harley motorcycles, strapped on an arm band, and started a proud tradition known today as the Washington State Patrol. This tradition continues to this day with the graduation of the 93rd Trooper Basic Training Class today at the Capitol Rotunda, signaled by the stream of shiny white patrol cars parked in the lanes leading up to the capitol steps.

During the ceremony, the Core Values Award was presented to **Trooper Sergio Cervantes**. This award is presented to the trooper cadet who most typifies the Training Division Core Values during training, which include Honesty, Integrity, Team-Orientation, Attention to Detail, Adaptability, Self-Discipline, Performance-Driven, Professionalism, Officer Safety, and Sense of Urgency. The recipient of this award is determined by an anonymous vote of his classmates, and is sponsored by the Washington State Patrol Memorial Foundation to honor the most recent State Patrol employee to give their life in service to the citizens of the state of Washington. Trooper Jim Saunders was killed in the line of duty on October 7, 1999, and this award is presented today in his honor. Trooper Saunders' wife, Billie, presented the award to Trooper Cervantes.

In addition to this award, Chief Batiste presented six trooper cadets with awards at a ceremony held on February 9, during open house at the WSP Academy. These awards included:

Top Driving Award

Presented to **Trooper Thomas L. Burress**, this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with respect to driving skills and techniques, decision-making and mind-set, and steady and constant improvement through each phase of drivers training. (72 hours)

Top Firearms Award

Presented to **Trooper Brandon J. Dumont**, this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with all weapon systems, marksmanship scores and skills, and demonstrates sound judgment during practical encounter scenarios. (110 hours)

(more)

Top Defensive Tactics and Fitness Award

Presented to **Trooper Brandon J. Dumont**, this award recognizes the highest level of tenacity and drive used to excel physically, which is displayed by a cadet during physical fitness training, control and defensive tactics training, and their command presence. (140 hours)

Top Academic Award

Presented to **Trooper Dawn M. Hytry**, this award recognizes the outstanding efforts of the cadet who attains the highest Grade Point Average during their training. The class average GPA was 89% and Hytry scored an impressive 95%.

Top Collision Investigation Award

Presented to **Trooper Angela R. Barcellos**, this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency regarding collision investigation, including mathematical computation, scene investigation, information and evidence gathering, report writing, and teamwork. (64 hours)

Top Overall Cadet Award

Presented to **Troopers Angela R. Barcellos and Sergio Cervantes**, this award recognizes the trooper cadet or in this case cadets, who demonstrated great courage to overcome obstacles, unwavering dedication to stay focused on reaching their goals, and their ability to give 100% in every aspect of their training. Both Barcellos and Cervantes demonstrated the necessary skills, abilities, and judgment to be excellent troopers, and made extra efforts to continuously make improvements

Listed below are the newest WSP Troopers, their initial assignment, and their hometown.

CADET NAME	ASSIGNMENT	HOMETOWN
ABELL, Carson H.	D-2 Seattle	Gig Harbor
BARCELLOS, Angela R.	D-2 Seattle	Spokane
BAUER, Mitchell T.	D-2 Seattle	Bremerton
BERGHOFF, Seth T.	D-2 Seattle	Yakima
BURRESS, Thomas L.	D-7 Marysville	Mount Vernon
CERVANTES, Sergio	D-2 Seattle	Grandview
CLARK, Grant R.	D-8 Port Townsend	Olympia (Family in Susanville CA)
CONROY, Michael J.	D-2 Seattle	North Bend
DESTITO, Justin M.	D-2 Seattle	Walla Walla
DICK, Timothy A.	D-7 Marysville	Lake Stevens
DUMONT, Brandon J.	D-7 Marysville	Maple Valley
DURBIN, Ryan A.	D-1 Tacoma	Olympia
EVERS, Jeffrey T.	D-2 Seattle	Spokane
FEHLER, Matthew B.	D-2 Seattle	Spokane
FOURNIER, Justin S.	D-2 Seattle	Tacoma
FREDERICK, Christopher M.	D-7 Marysville	Fox Island, Gig Harbor
GOOCH, Gary R.	D-2 Seattle	
GREENE, Jesse K.	D-8 Naselle	Aberdeen (Family in Canisteo NY)
GREER, Jason W.	D-2 Seattle	Tacoma
HODGSON, Mark S.	D-8 Port Townsend	Olympia
HOVINGHOFF, Nathan P.	D-2 Seattle	Rainier, Olympia (Family in Lyle, WA)
HYTRY, Dawn M.	D-1 Tacoma	
JEFFERY, Matthew W.	D-2 Seattle	Arizona Republic News Tribune
KING, Nathan R.	D-7 Marysville	Kent
LANCASTER, Joshua A.	D-7 Oak Harbor	
LEDESMA, Michael C.	D-2 Seattle	Olympia
LEONARD, Jeffrey N.	D-7 Marysville	Lynnwood
LEWIS, Benjamin L.	D-7 Marysville	Colton, OR (Molalla Pioneer)
ULL, Nickolaus F.	D-6 Okanogan	Kennewick
MYERS, Casey L.	D-2 Seattle	Vancouver

NASHLEANAS, Daniel A.	D-2 Seattle	Olympia
NICHOLS, Jason D.	D-7 Oak Harbor	Oak Harbor (Newsleader, Parsons TN)
O'BRIEN, Maureen E.	D-5 Vancouver	Spokane
OVEREND-PEARSON, Collin	D-7 Marysville	Tacoma
PHILLIPS, Chad G.	D-2 Seattle	Issaquah
POWER, Douglas W.	D-2 Seattle	Spokane
PROVONCHA, Lawrence S. D.	D-7 Oak Harbor	
SMITH, Kyle W.	D-2 Seattle	Gig Harbor
STONE, Christopher M.	D-4 Spokane	Spokane
THOMPSON, Richard D.	D-5 Vancouver	Myrtle Creek, OR (Union Bulletin)
WATKINS, Derek J.	D-7 Marysville	Spokane
WHITE, Christine M.	D-2 Seattle	Kent
WOJCIECHOWICZ, Dennis R.	D-7 Marysville	Olympia

Photos of each cadet are available upon request. If you would like a photo, please contact the Office of Government and Media Relations (360) 753-5299.

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